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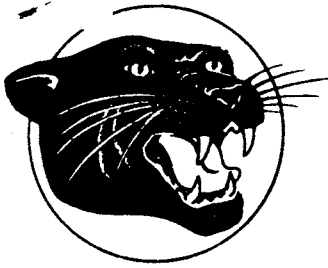
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# **Panther Sports News**

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LS-Volleyball

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's volleyball team will open its road schedule Friday (Sept. 9) at the five-team Eastern Michigan University tournament.

The spikers are slated to begin competition in the two-day, round-robin affair with a 6 p.m. Friday match against the University of Akron, immediately followed by an 8 p.m. contest with host Eastern Michigan.

After the Friday matches with Division I opponents, The Lady Panthers will wind up tournament action with a pair of contests against Division II foes. First up is the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, which is scheduled to take the court against EIU Saturday at 10 a.m. The final meeting for Eastern is slated for noon Saturday versus Ferris State.

Although first-year EIU coach Betty Ralston said she knows very little about her squad's opponents this weekend, the Panthers will have the advantage of being able to watch all four teams compete Friday before they play.

Ralston will utilize a starting lineup similar to that used last weekend at the Lady Panther triangular, when Eastern dropped a grueling four-game match to the University of Wisconsin-Madison and whipped Northern Illinois in three straight games. Junior Donna Uhler (Glen Ellyn-Benet Academy) will handle the setting duties, with seniors Kathy Briggs (Bartonville-Limestone/Illinois Central), Stacy Cook (Lincoln/Illinois Central) and Bonnie Fisk (Evansville, IN-Castle), sophomore Judy Planos (Evanston-Evanston Township) and freshman Maura LeFevour (Oak Park-River Forest) acting as hitters. Freshman walk-on Ellen Karcher (Wayne City) will relieve LeFevour in the back row to utilize Karcher's serving and defensive strengths.

One lineup change Ralston may institute for Friday's matches would be to use senior Gretchen Braker (Matteson-Rich Central), EIU's back-up setter, as a weak-side hitter replacing LeFevour. "That would give us more experience, so I may make the change at least

on Friday against the tougher teams," Ralston said. "Friday night is going to be tough on us, especially because we won't have any work on Thursday" while traveling to Ypsilanti.

Ralston said she is expecting a fairly easy outing against Milwaukee, a team that is in a rebuilding phase after losing seven players from last year's squad. However, she cautioned that Ferris State boasts a strong Division II program and "won't be a pushover. It's hard to judge how good anyone will be this early in the season, but I expect Ferris to give us a good match," she said.

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Eastern's women's cross country squad will open its 1983 season by hosting a dual meet against co-Gateway Collegiate Athletic Conference member Western Illinois.

Panther coach John Craft said he is expecting the Westerwinds to give his squad a tough meet, but Eastern may have an advantage by running at home.

"People don't like losing at home and that may work to our advantage," Craft said. "On paper, (Western) probably looks a little better than we do, because they have six returning from last year and we have only three. Their depth alone may give them an advantage, but anything can happen in a race."

Senior captain Margaret Smith (Effingham-St. Anthony) will lead the way for EIU, with senior Carrie Mortell (McHenry), sophomore Anne Ogle (Quincy) and freshmen Janine Jarris (St. Charles) and Teresa Paul (Aledo) expected to finish well on their home course.

"We wanted to run this meet because we have a relatively flat course where everyone can turn in a good time. The courses will get progressively tougher through the season, but good times early will help the kids build confidence," Craft said.

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